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A NEW CORYBAS SPECIES FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

by

D. L. JONES* AND R. C. NASH†

ABSTRACT

A new species of *Corybas* (Orchidaceae) from South Australia is described and illustrated. The new taxon has affinities with both *C. diemenicus* (Lindl.) H.M.R. Rupp and *C. dilatatus* (H.M.R. Rupp and W. H. Nicholls) H.M.R. Rupp. A table setting out the contrasting characters between these three species is provided.

Corybas despectans D. L. Jones and R. C. Nash, spec. nov.

ex affinitate *C. dilatati* et *C. diemenici*, sed a priore differt tubo labelli laminam aequanti et a secundo marginibus labelli expansis (nunquam incurvatis) distinguitur; a his ambobus recedit sic—sepalo dorsali nec late spathulato nec cucullato, callo labelli costis parallelibus depressis praedito (nec integro nec dentibus brevibus scabridis instructo) atque auriculis in tubo labelli inconspicuis (foramen minutum facientibus).

HOLOTYPE: Lower Coorong, South Australia. R. C. Nash, 8.viii.1967 (AD 96815018).

ISOTYPES: AD, Herb. Nash 308.

PARATYPE: Yorke Peninsula, Marion Bay Rd., \pm 25 miles south of Warooka, in Mallee scrub. R. C. Nash, 16.viii.1967 (AD 96815021).

Leaf 8–25 x 12–30 mm, cordate to orbicular, occasionally lobed, apiculate, green on both surfaces. *Flower* 7–12 mm long, reddish-purple, dominated by the lamina of the labellum, sessile or almost so. *Ovary* 3–5 mm long, narrow, subtended by a small narrow bract. *Dorsal sepal* 6–11 x 3–4 mm when flattened out, greenish-grey with some purple striations, spathulate-oblong, concave, carinate, erect in the lower half then curving gently through about 60°, the apex acute or obtuse, often irregularly notched. *Petals* about 2.0 x 0.8 mm, slightly falcate, winged

* Horticultural Research Institute, Knoxfield, Victoria.

† Coromandel Parade, Blackwood, South Australia.

at the base where they join the column, then tapering to filiform points, often notched. *Lateral sepals* about 5 x 0.8 mm narrow acute, connate at base, tapered from base to extremity, apex entire. *Labellum* longer than dorsal sepal; labellum-tube 4–5 mm long about equal in length to the lamina, erect for about 4 mm then abruptly decurved through 180° and greatly expanded into an almost circular lamina; lamina 7–8 x 9–11 mm reddish with conspicuous venation, its margins slightly denticulate; boss flat, almost triangular inconspicuous; callus consisting of about four raised divergent plates, occasionally adorned with minute teeth. *Auricles* extremely small directed downward with a minute opening hidden by the base of the lateral petals. *Column* about 2.5 mm long, narrow, of nearly equal width throughout, minutely winged. *Stigma* ± 1.5 mm in diam., ± rectangular concave. *Anther* 1–1.5 mm long, entire. *Pollinarium* 1.0 x 0.8 mm, consisting of 4 pollinia in two pairs, attached directly to a reniform viscidium 0.5 mm long. *Pollinia* mealy.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: Lower Coorong. R. C. Nash, 23.viii.1969; Lower Coorong. R. C. Nash, 7.viii.1971 (Herb. Nash 990); Yorke Peninsula, Sand hills behind Pondalovic Bay. R. C. Nash, 16.viii.1967 (AD 96815003); Yorke Peninsula, ± 1 mile east of Corny Point Store. R. C. Nash, 16.viii.1967 (AD 96815022) (Herb. Nash 243); ± 2 miles south of Meningie, east of Highway one, in Mallee scrub. R. C. Nash, 7.viii.1971 (AD 97137075) (Herb. Nash 979); Eyre Peninsula, Hundred Uley, block 1. D. J. E. Whibley, 24.viii.1967; (AD 97336001); Eyre Peninsula, Yangie Bay. C. R. Alcock, 25.ix.1966. Plants with seed capsules (AD 96718113); Eyre Peninsula, Hundred Sleaford, Fisheries Bay. C. R. Alcock, 5.ix.1965. Plants with seed capsules (AD 966011055); Eyre Peninsula, Hundred Uley, Section 14. H. J. Eichler, 24.viii.1967 (AD 96742084); Sellicks Beach in the Aldinga Scrub. T. J. Smith, 18.viii.1967 (AD 97016039); west of Cherry Gardens. R. C. Nash, 23.viii.1967; Eyre Peninsula, Koppio. M. J. Clark, 1967; near Naracoorte. M. J. Beek, 9.viii.1968.

FLOWERING PERIOD: July–August.

DISTRIBUTION: At present known from south-eastern and southern South Australia in low Mallee or open eucalypt forest under bracken. An extension into Victoria is to be anticipated as it occurs very close to the border.

DISCUSSION: The distinctiveness of this orchid was first recognized by Mrs. M. J. Beek of Naracoorte, who found it at Desert Camp, South Australia in 1966. Field trips and examination of specimens in the State Herbarium have shown it to be a fairly widespread species. It has been found growing close to the sea or inland with the habitat varying from light sandy soil in low Mallee to eucalypt forest (often over limestone). In common with most *Corybas* species it grows in large colonies.

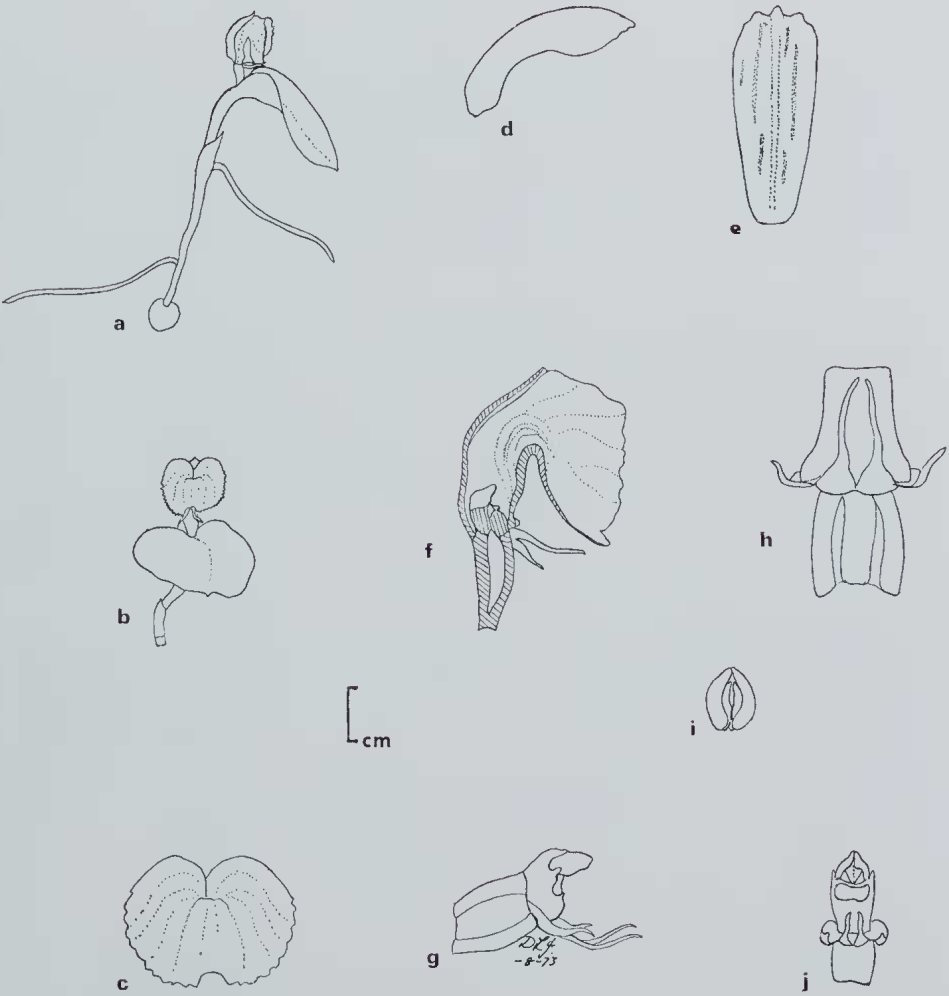


Fig. 1.—a—flowering plant from side, to indicated scale; b—flowering plant from front, to indicated scale; c—labellum from front, to scale x 3; d—dorsal sepal from side, to scale x 4; e—dorsal sepal flattened out, to scale x 4; f—longitudinal section of flower, to scale x 4; g—column and lateral sepals from side, to scale x 5; h—base of labellum tube showing auricles, lateral sepals and lateral petals from front, to scale x 8; i—polinarium, to scale x 10; j—column, lateral sepals and lateral petals from front, to scale x 5.

Corybas despectans has affinities with both *C. diemenicus* and *C. dilatatus* however it can be readily distinguished from both by the small flower and very short non cucullate dorsal sepal. Further differences are listed in Table 1.

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<i>Corybas dilatatus</i>	<i>Corybas diemenicus</i>	<i>Corybas despectans</i>
Dorsal sepal broadly spathulate, cucullate	Dorsal sepal broadly spathulate, cucullate	Dorsal sepal narrow-spathulate to oblong, non-cucullate
Labellum-tube longer than lamina	Labellum-tube equal to lamina	Labellum-tube equal to lamina
Labellum margins spreading, denticulate	Labellum margins incurved denticulate	Labellum margins spreading, slightly denticulate
Labellum callus entire ..	Labellum callus of short scabrid teeth	Labellum callus of parallel flattened ridges
Labellum auricles conspicuous, widely opening	Labellum auricles conspicuous, widely opening	Labellum auricles inconspicuous, minutely opening

Table 1.—Contrasting Characters.